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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 9256-24 (153236)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of  
Thomas Kircher

Serial No.: 09/944,338  
Confirmation No.: 1860

Filed: August 31, 2001

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
LOCAL ALUMINIDE COATING

RECEIVED

FEB 14 2003 Group Art Unit:  
1742  
TC 1700

Examiner:  
Andrew L. Oltmans

10/c  
03/24/03

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action (paper no. 9) mailed September 10, 2002. This response is being filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period set in the office action.

A separate paper and fee for the submission of one additional independent claim is filed herewith. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. Please charge any fee that is due, and credit any overpayment, to deposit account no. 50-0573.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)	
I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
BY	<u>Christina B. Overre</u>
DATE	<u>February 6, 2003</u>

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